

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-11 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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USIA-06 /069 W

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R 171345Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7722

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, JO, SY

SUBJECT: REPORT OF JORDAN-SYRIAN FEDERATION PLANS

1. CITING "USUALLY WELL-INFORMED WEST BANK ARAB SOURCES," ANAN SAFADI WRITES IN FEB 17 JERUSALEM POST THAT SYRIA AND JORDAN ARE MOVING TOWARD ESTABLISHMENT OF FEDERATION TO BE KNOWN AS "UNITED ARAB STATES" WITH COMBINED CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, UNIFIED ARMY COMMAND AND JOINT PARLIAMENT THAT WOULD MEET ALTERNATELY IN DAMASCUS AND AMMAN. JORDAN AND SYRIA WOULD BE KNOWN AS "REGIONS" AND WOULD EACH RETAIN AUTONOMOUS STATUS.

2. STORY CLAIMS WEST BANK INFORMANTS HAVING CLOSE TIES WITH AMMAN SAID HUSSEIN WOULD CONTINUE AS JORDAN'S HEAD OF STATE BUT WAS PREPARED TO BE SECOND TO SYRIAN PRESIDENT ASAD IN FEDERATION. ANNOUNCEMENT TO FOLLOW DRAFTING OF JOINT CONSTITUTION "WHICH WOULD SEEK TO RECONCILE .. DIFFERENT NATURE OF THE REGIMES - SOCIALIST SYRIA AND MONARCHIAL JORDAN - AS WELL AS QUESTIONS OF PRESIDENCY OF FEDERATION AND ITS CAPITAL".

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3. COMMENT: EMBASSIES AMMAN AND DAMASCUS OBVIOUSLY MUCH BETTER ABLE THAN WE TO ASSESS VALIDITY OF THIS REPORT. HOWEVER, OUR RECENT CONTACTS WITH WEST BANK/JERUSALEM SOURCES WITH GOOD CONNECTIONS TO AMMAN GIVE US NO REASON TO BELIEVE HUSSEIN INTERESTED IN SUCH CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH SYRIA, ESPECIALLY IF IT MEANT ANY SUBORDINATION TO ASAD. JUST AFTER HIS RETURN FROM AMMAN LAST MONTH, LEADING NOTABLE ANWAR KHATIB, WHO SAID HE HAD TWO MEETINGS WITH KING DURING VISIT, TOLD CONSUL GENERAL THAT HUSSEIN WAS MOVING VERY CAUTIOUSLY IN HIS RELATIONS WITH ASAD. KHATIB SAID HE HAD WARNED KING AGAINST TOO CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH SYRIA AND HAD BEEN ASSURED KING FULLY CONSCIOUS OF POTENTIAL DANGERS AND WAS RETAINING FULL FREEDOM OF ACTION.
NEWLIN

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